CLAIMS

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1. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, a method of enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources, said method comprising the steps of:

having a first reader process issue a read function call to the operating system specifying said named pipe to attempt to read data from said pipe; and

having said first reader process issue an activate-on-receipt function call to said operating system specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe and then terminating if there was no data to be read from said pipe.

- 2. The method of claim 1 in which said new reader process is a new instantiation of said first reader process.
- 3. The method of claim 1 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies said named pipe.
- 4. The method of claim 1 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies data being passed from said first reader process to said new reader process.
- The method of claim 1, comprising the initial step of:
 having said first reader process create said named pipe if it does not already exist.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:

having said first reader process repeat said step of issuing said read function call if there was data to be read from said pipe.

- 7. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:
 having said operating system activate said new reader process in response to said
 activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.
- 8. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, apparatus for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources, said apparatus comprising:

means associated with a first reader process for issuing a read function call to the operating system specifying said named pipe to attempt to read data from said pipe; and

means associated with said first reader process for issuing an activate-on-receipt function call to said operating system specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe and then terminating if there was no data to be read from said pipe.

- 9. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising: \
 means associated with said first reader process for initially creating said named pipe if it does not already exist.
- 10. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

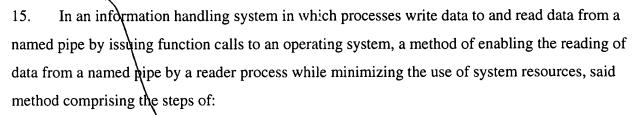
 means associated with said first reader process for repeating said read function call if there was data to be read from said pipe.

11. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe by a reader process while minimizing the use of system resources in an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, said method steps being performed by said preexisting reader process and comprising:

having a first reader process issue a read function call to the operating system specifying said named pipe to attempt to read data from said pipe; and

having said first reader process issue an activate-on-receipt function call to said operating system specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe and then terminating if there was no data to be read from said pipe.

- 12. The program storage device of claim 11, comprising the initial step of: having said first reader process create said named pipe if it does not already exist.
- 13. The program storage device of claim 11, comprising the further step of:
 having said first reader process repeat said step of issuing said read function call if there was data to be read from said pipe.
- 14. The program storage device of claim 11, comprising the further step of:
 having said operating system activate said new reader process in response to said
 activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.



having said operating system receive an activate-on receipt function call from a first reader process, said function call specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe; and

having said operating system activate said new reader process in response to said activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.

- 16. The method of claim 15 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies said named pipe.
- 17. The method of claim 15 in which said activate-on-receipt function call specifies data being passed from said preexisting reader process to said new reader process.
- 18. In an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, apparatus for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe while minimizing the use of system resources, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an activate-on receipt function call from said reader process, said function call specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe; and

means responsive to said activate-on-receipt function call for activating said new reader process upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.

19. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for enabling the reading of data from a named pipe while minimizing the use of system resources in an information handling system in which processes write data to and read data from a named pipe by issuing function calls to an operating system, said method steps comprising:

receiving an activate-on receipt function call from said reader process, said function call specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by said named pipe; and activating said new reader process in response to said activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by said named pipe.